

**House of Representatives  
Juvenile Justice and Family Law  
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2004**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
September 20-21	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Examination of the quality of representation in juvenile court matters.	Work Session
December 1	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee Joint with Education	Drop-out Prevention	Work Session
December 2-3	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	(1) Juvenile Mental Health. (2) Issues in domestic relations: third party visitation, surrogate parentage, and child support.	Work Session

---

**Project Title: Innovation in Juvenile Justice**

**Project Goal:**

Explore innovative juvenile justice programs.

**Project Description:**

The Governor's Juvenile Justice Advisory Group has worked with judges and juvenile court administrators to submit a grant application to the Annie E. Casey Foundation for the purpose of implementing the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI). The Annie E. Casey Foundation funded the JDAI in Multnomah County, Oregon and the evaluation of this program showed a reduction in the disproportionate minority confinement and that the program did not put the community at risk. The committee will look at Multnomah County and other jurisdictions that are using innovative juvenile justice programs and explore the possible use of such programs in Washington to enhance public safety while offering creative and effective rehabilitation for juveniles.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** Two Meetings: Possible report by staff or work session during September committee assembly

**Completion Date:** December 2004

**Staff Assigned:** Sonja Hallum

---

**Project Title: Examination of the quality of representation in juvenile court.**

**Project Goal:**

Examine the quality of representation by public defenders in juvenile court and alternatives for improvements in the system.

**Project Description:**

In October 2003, the American Bar Association Juvenile Justice Center, in collaboration with several other agencies including the Washington Defender Association, issued an assessment of the access to counsel and the quality of representation in juvenile offender matters in Washington. The study revealed significant deficiencies in the quality of representation in juvenile court resulting in many children failing to receive effective legal representation. A series of articles in the Seattle Post Intelligencer has examined the issue and found very high caseloads for public defenders in many counties for juvenile court matters. The high caseloads in one county have led to the license suspension of one public defender and the filing of a class-action lawsuit by the American Civil Liberties Union and Columbia Legal Services for the reform of the county's public defense system.

The committee will examine the current public defense systems in the juvenile courts and the quality of legal representation provided within the systems. The committee will hear from various groups regarding the problems in representation and the recommendations for improvement of the public defense system in Washington juvenile courts.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** September 2004

**Completion Date:** September 2004

**Staff Assigned:** Sonja Hallum/Trudes Hutcheson

---

---

**Project Title: Drop-out Prevention**

**Project Goal:**

Educate the committee on the issue of drop-out prevention and potential solutions.

**Project Description:**

The committee will explore reasons for the high drop-out rates in the state. The study will include an examination of (a) drop-out rate by demographic group; (b) the reasons students drop-out of school; (c) effective drop-out prevention and retrieval programs; and (d) interactions between schools and the justice system.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** Joint work session with the Education Committee on December 1, 2004.

**Completion Date:** December 2004

**Staff Assigned:** Sonja Hallum/Trudes Hutcheson/Suzi Morrissey/Sydney Forrester

---

**Project Title: Juvenile Mental Health**

**Project Goal:**

A review of the juvenile mental health system in Washington and the potential areas of improvement.

**Project Description:**

This is a continuation of the committee's work in the area of juvenile mental health. The committee will be taking a broader look at the issue of juvenile mental health, including an analysis of the current juvenile mental health system and the need for changes in the system or statutes. The committee may review current statutes pertaining to juvenile mental health, research on issues pertaining to juvenile mental health treatment, current practices across the state and nation, model approaches in other states, and other areas relating to juvenile mental health. The committee will also look at juvenile mental health as compared to behavioral health issues.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** One work session during December Committee Assembly days

**Completion Date:** December 2004

**Staff Assigned:** Sonja Hallum

---

**Project Title:** Monitor developments in domestic relations: third party visitation, surrogate parentage, and child support.

**Project Goal:**

Brief the committee members on the on-going local and national developments in domestic relations issues of third party visitation, surrogate parentage, and child support.

**Project Description:**

There have been numerous state and nationwide developments in various areas of domestic relations, such as surrogate parentage, custody, and child support. For the past several years, the committee has heard numerous bills on third party visitation (sometimes called grandparent visitation rights). Recently, the state appellate court ruled that one of Washington's third party visitation statutes as it pertains to cases where the parents are already divorced was not unconstitutional. Many practitioners across the state have assumed that Washington's third party visitation statutes are unconstitutional based on language in a U.S. Supreme Court case. The committee will monitor in what way, if any, this new appellate court case changes third party visitation cases and the need for third party legislation.

Legal issues surrounding surrogate parenting and surrogate parentage contracts have arisen in various states. The committee will examine Washington's statutes on surrogate parentage and evaluate whether changes to those statutes are appropriate.

The federal government is proposing various changes to the child support laws. Those changes potentially impact state laws regarding child support, TANF, and paternity. The committee will monitor any proposed changes and evaluate whether legislation is appropriate.

During the December committee assembly, the committee may be briefed on the recent developments in the state and around the nation regarding these domestic relations issues.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** Possible staff briefing during December committee assembly

**Completion Date:** December 2004

**Staff Assigned:** Trudes Hutcheson/Sonja Hallum

---

---

## STAFF RESEARCH PROJECTS

---

---

**Project Title:** Review/monitor the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) adolescent work group.

**Project Goal:**

Monitor the adolescent work group to keep informed of the work of the group and how it might interact with the work of the committee in the area of juvenile mental health.

**Project Description:**

The Department of Social and Health Services will be forming a work group to address the issue of adolescent mental health. Rep. Dickerson and staff will attend the DSHS adolescent work group meetings and monitor the activities of the work group. The committee may hold a work session to inform members of the developments of the work group depending on the outcomes of the work group over the interim.

**Number & Type of Meetings:** Possible work session dependent upon the outcome of the work group

**Completion Date:** December 2004

**Staff Assigned:** Sonja Hallum

---

---